AKIRA

28™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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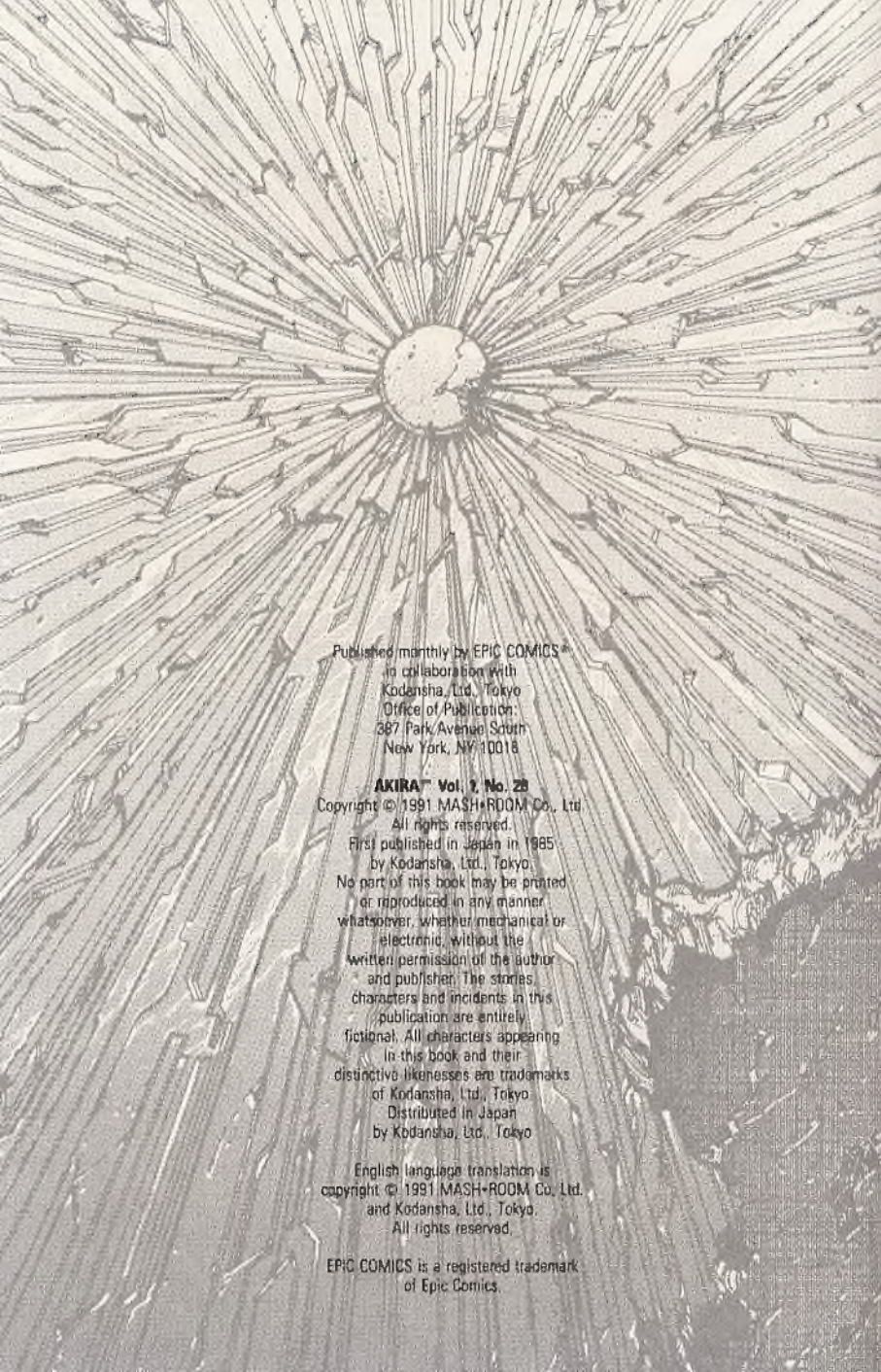

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 28

SWEPT AWAY

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu** and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** was crippled by a laser blast from the military satellite SOL, which the **Colonel** controlled, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate himself a prosthetic left arm.

Akira is the most powerful of the children. He was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years ago after he started the third world war with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**, and shortly thereafter he responded to emotional trauma by devastating **Neo-Tokyo**. A state of emergency now exists in Japan, and new powers and allegiances have arisen.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the Empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs to develop psychic abilities in certain of his subjects.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada** but the spy decides to separate from his would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded and living in hiding. He is determined to kill **Tetsuo**, who he believes could become another **Akira**. At the same

Tetsuo Akira Kay The Colonel

time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so he can challenge Akira's awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend, **Kai**, who are using a "caretaker robot" and a motorcycle "borrowed" from their old enemy, **Joker** of the **Clown Gang**, to transport the wounded **Kay** and **Chiyoko**. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay** who is a powerful psychic medium.

Aboard an American naval vessel an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, which they code-name **Juvenile-A**. Their data indicates that the effect of Akira's power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of Tetsuo's) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the U.S. government has formed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the young, dedicated soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. **Tetsuo** pays a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, he destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then, he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile-A** before disappearing in a burst of telekinetic energy which seriously injures one of them.

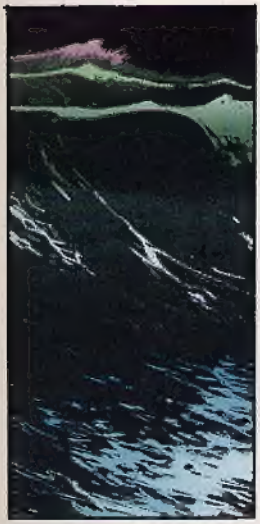
Kaneda and **Kai** safely reach Lady Miyako's shrine, where the great mystic heals **Kay**. **Joker** is outraged to find out **Kaneda** and **Kai** have totaled one of his bikes and is taking payment out of their hides. They remind him that all three have put their differences behind them to unite against **Tetsuo**.

To inspire their followers, the leaders of the **Great Tokyo Empire** hold a grand convocation, half rock concert and half religious ceremony. Outside the stadium where this occurs, **Ryu** prevents **Lt. Yamada** from firing a biochemical weapon which could destroy **Akira**...and take most of the population of **Neo-Tokyo** with him.

Tetsuo uses his powers to transport himself to the moon, where he creates a massive crater. In the ensuing earthbound seismic mayhem, **Ryu** is buried under a falling building.

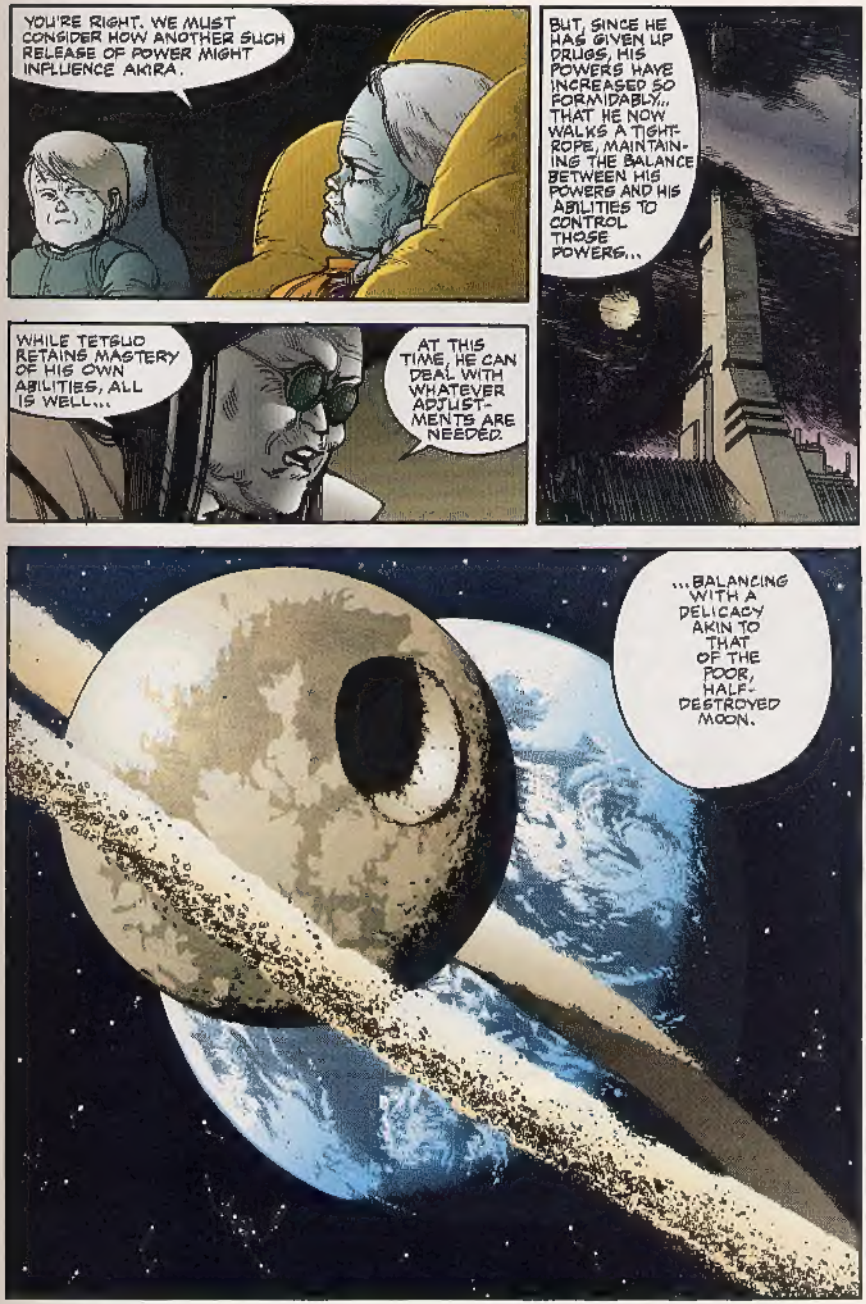
Chiyoko Kaori Kai Lt. Yamada

MA--
--MASTER TETSUO!
I'M BACK, LORD.

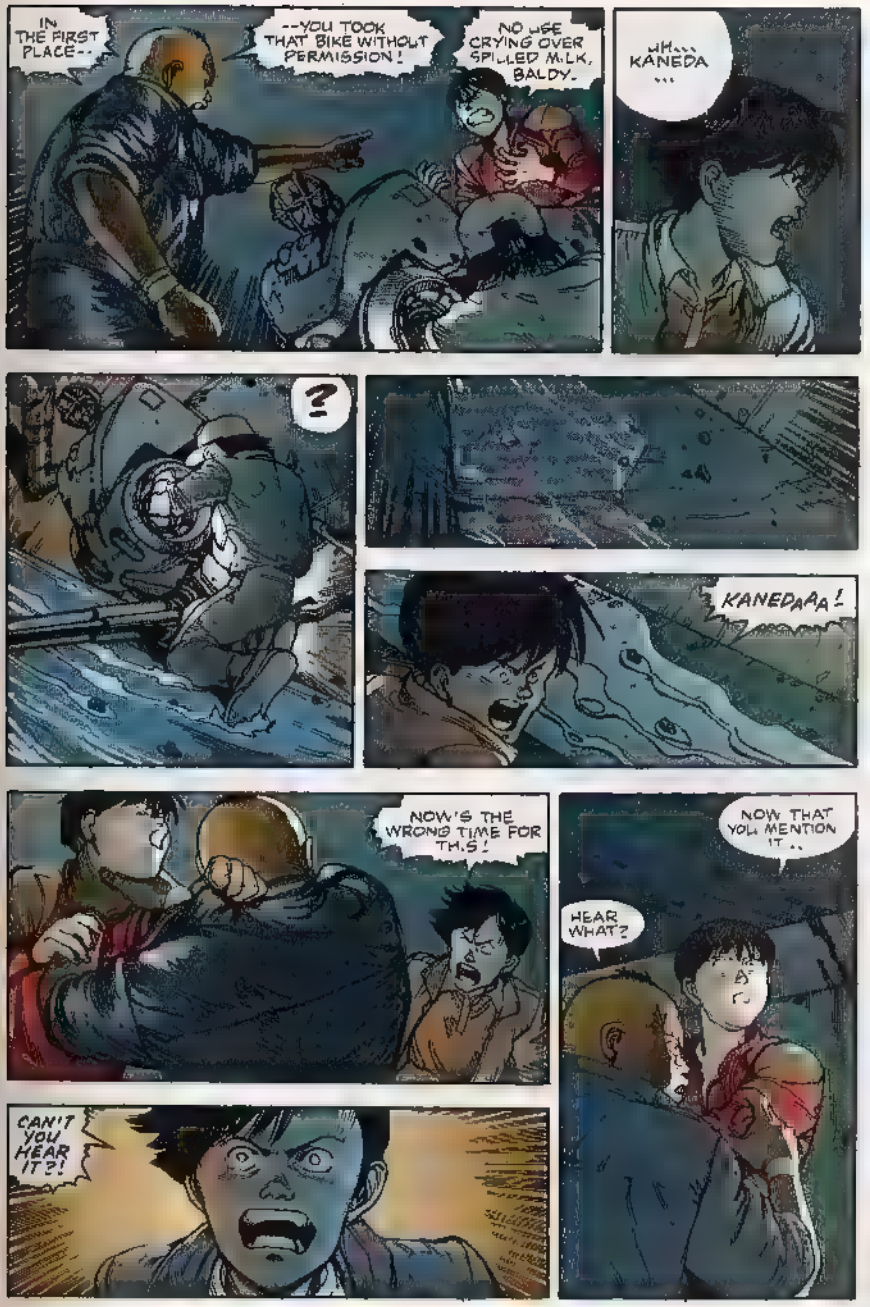


AAUGH!

NUMBER 41 HAS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED THE MOON.
HIS GROWTH HAS BEEN SO RAPID, WE CAN'T EXPECT THE PERIOD OF STABILITY TO LAST.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO EXPEND THAT MUCH ENERGY AT ONCE.
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD DEVELOP SO FAST.
WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE.
BUT KAY HASN'T...
I WISH WE COULD TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF WAITING UNTIL WE ARE DOUBLY CERTAIN...
...BUT WE HAVEN'T THAT LUXURY.


YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST CONSIDER HOW ANOTHER SUCH RELEASE OF POWER MIGHT INFLUENCE AKIRA.
BUT, SINCE HE HAS GIVEN UP DRUGS, HIS POWERS HAVE INCREASED SO FORMIDABLY... THAT HE NOW WALKS A TIGHT-ROPE, MAINTAINING THE BALANCE BETWEEN HIS POWERS AND HIS ABILITIES TO CONTROL THOSE POWERS...
WHILE TETSUO RETAINS MASTERY OF HIS OWN ABILITIES, ALL IS WELL...
AT THIS TIME, HE CAN DEAL WITH WHATEVER ADJUST-MENTS ARE NEEDED.
...BALANCING WITH A DELICACY AKIN TO THAT OF THE POOR, HALF-DESTROYED MOON.

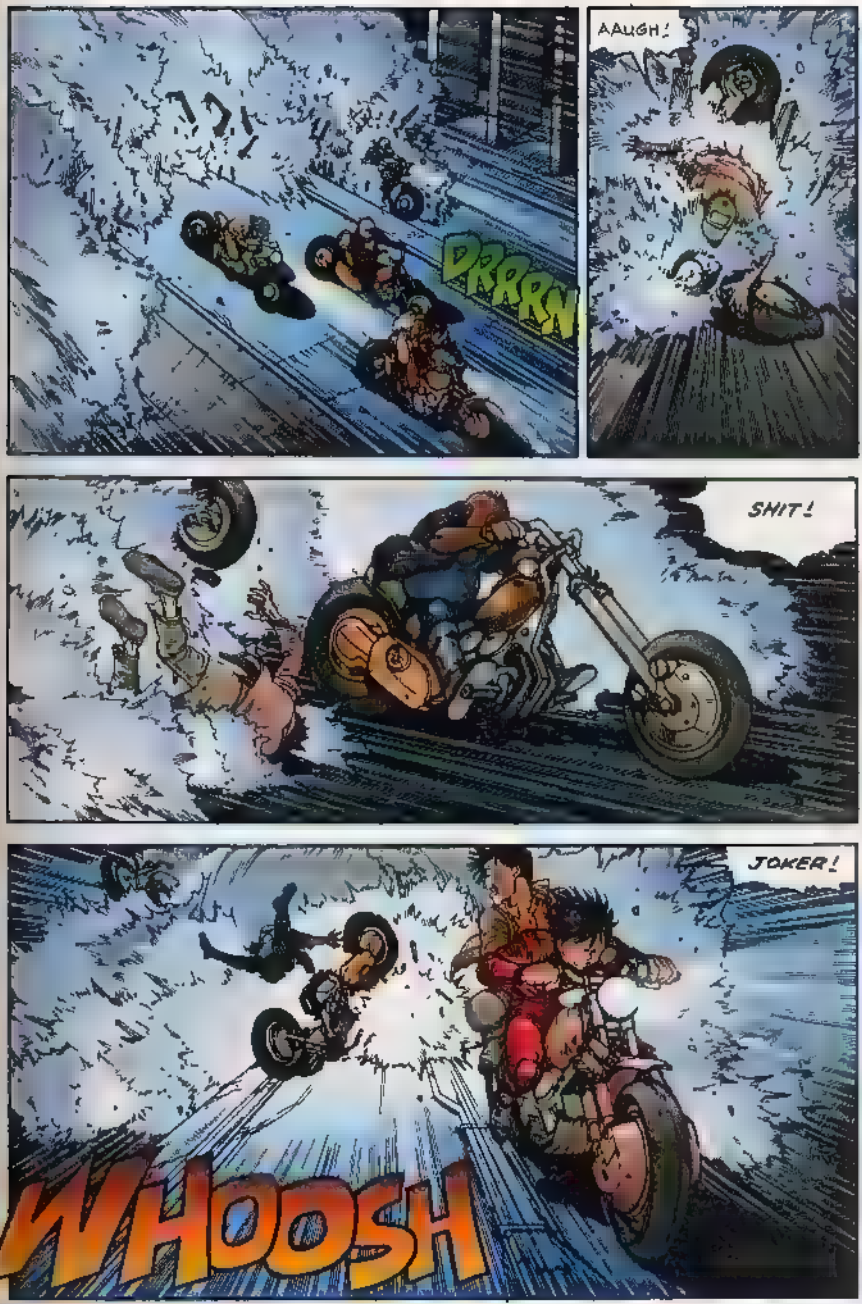
AWESOME, ISN'T IT? I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN WE FOUND IT!
AM I RIGHT, OR WHAT?!
SEE, I'M GOOD FOR THE BIKE I TRASHED. YOU CAN TAKE THIS IN TRADE.
NO WAY.
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WORKING PARTS TO MAKE IT USEFUL.
A BIG GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO BE SUCH A NITPICKER!
?
APPRAISE THIS, KANEDA!
ASSHOLE!
INSTEAD OF APPRAISING EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, YOU GOTTA LEARN TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE!
.....


IN THE FIRST PLACE--
--YOU TOOK THAT BIKE WITHOUT PERMISSION!
NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED M.LK, BALDY.
UH... KANEDA ...
?
KANEDAAA!
NOW'S THE WRONG TIME FOR TH.S!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT..
HEAR WHAT?
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?!

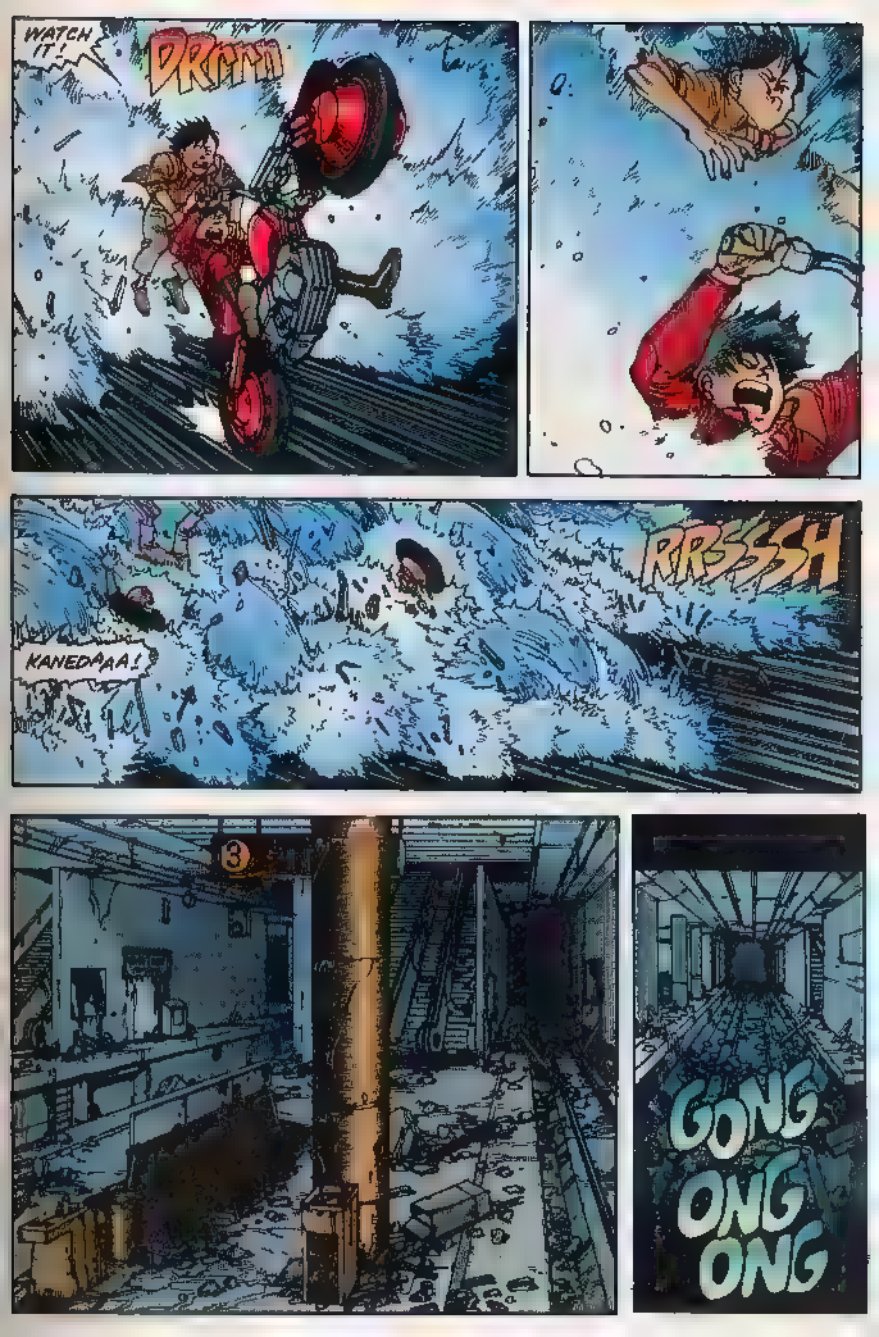
KLONG
WHAT IS IT?
SOUNDS LIKE
. WATER
ONGONG
ONG
YAHHHH!

RUN!!
SPLASH
PUFF
PUFF
HURRY!
HERE IT COMES!
DRRRRN

CAN'T WE GO ANY FASTER?!
RRSSSHH
NOT UNLESS YOU LOSE SOME WEIGHT!
RRSSSH
DRRRN
IT'S RIGHT BEHIND US!

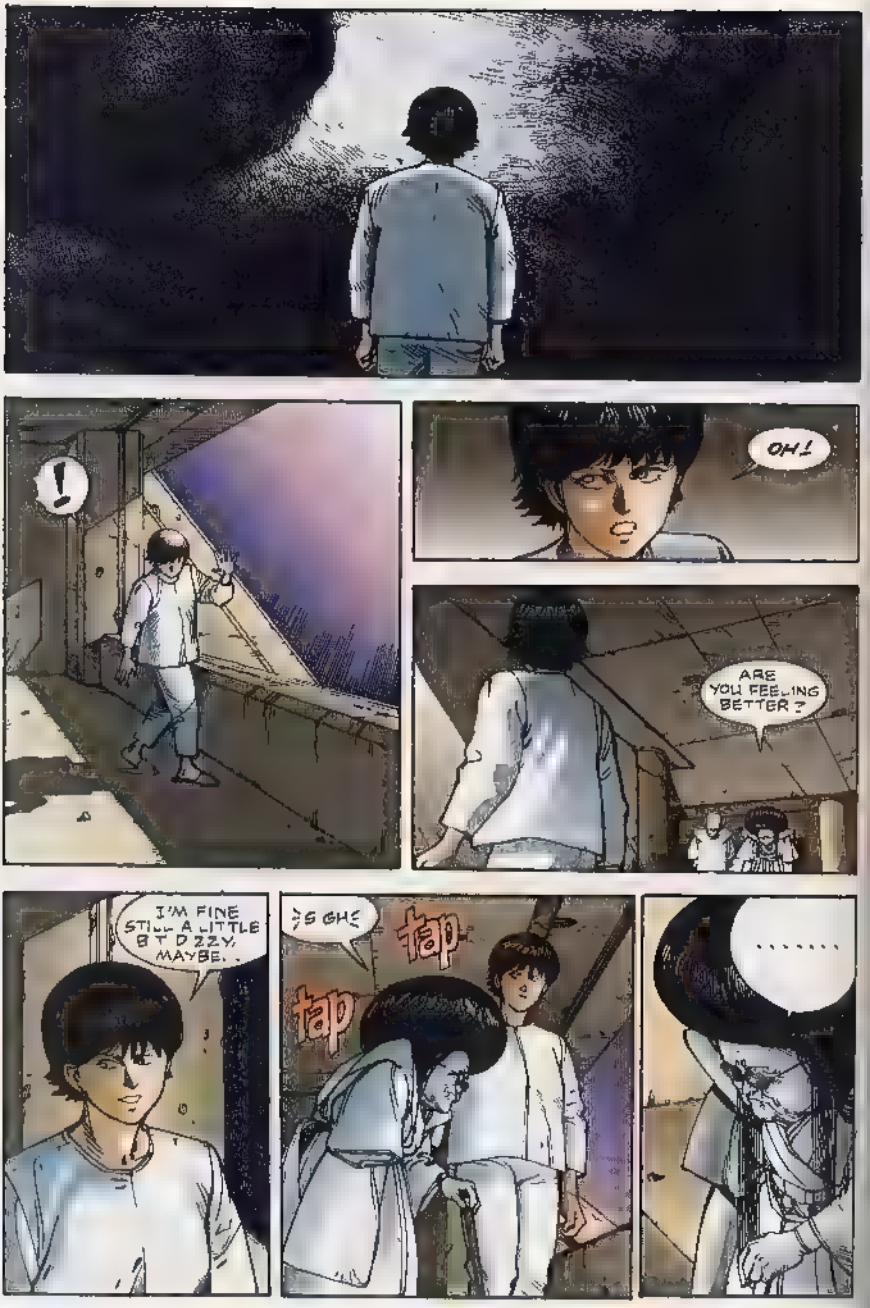

DRRRN
AAUGH!
SHIT!
JOKER!
WHOOSH

DRRRN
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MAKE IT, RIDING LIKE THIS.
SPLUSH
DON'T WORRY, KAI THE FUTURE'S SAFE IN MY HANDS!
I'LL GET TETSUO...FOR EVERYBODY,SO JUMP OFF THE BIKE. NOW.
YOU BASTARD!
HOW CAN YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
OW!!

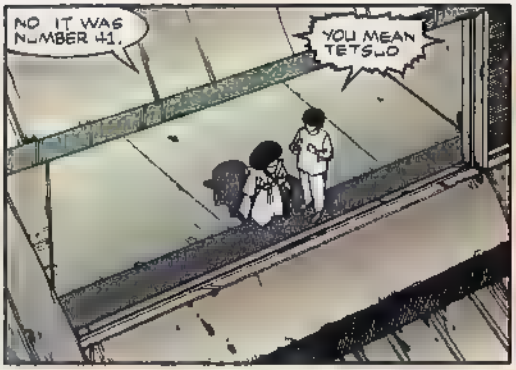

WATCH IT!
DRRMM
O.
RRRSSSH
KANEDAAA!
3
GONG
ONG
ONG

GONGONGONG
RRUM
BLE
WONK
THDK
JEEZ.

MY BIKE--! LOOK AT IT!
GAG!
PUKE!
KOFF-KOFF
AT LEAST YOU FOUND YOURS!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE WE GOT CAUGHT IN A FLOOD OF SEA WATER?
YEAH IT WAS ALL SALTY.
AN' THERE WAS TOO MUCH OF IT, TOO POWERFUL TO BE AN ORDINARY TIDE
!

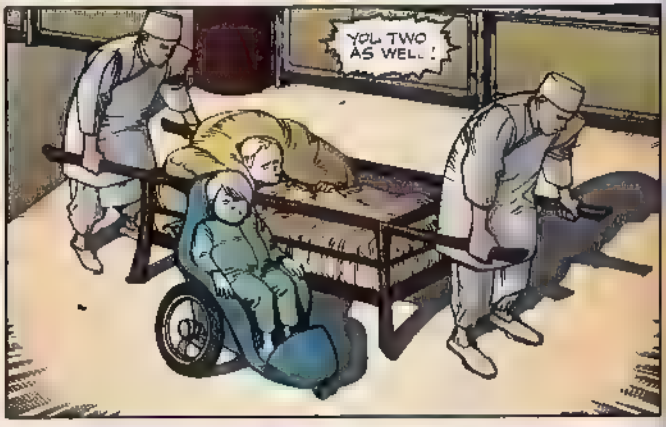

!
OH!
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
I'M FINE STILL A LITTLE BIT DIZZY, MAYBE.
tap
tap
. . . . . .

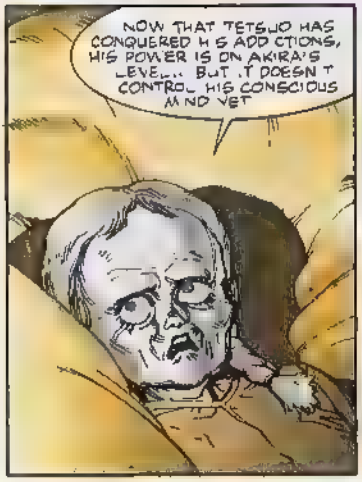
DID YOU WANT SOMETHING?
I... NEED YOUR HELP.
M--
--MY HELP?
THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT DO YOU SEE OUTSIDE?
A TREMENDOUS STORM
IT WAS UNLEASHED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MOON
WHAT?!
PARTIAL DESTRUCTION, I SHOULD HAVE SAID.. DAMAGED; CRIPPLED. THE REMAINDER SHINES IN OUR SKY.
THE ALTERATION TO ITS GRAVITATIONAL FIELD PLAYING HAVOC WITH OUR TIDES AND WEATHER SYSTEMS
DID AKIRA --?!


NO. IT WAS NUMBER 41.
YOU MEAN TETSUO

THE TIME WE'VE AWAITED HAS COME.
"WE"...?

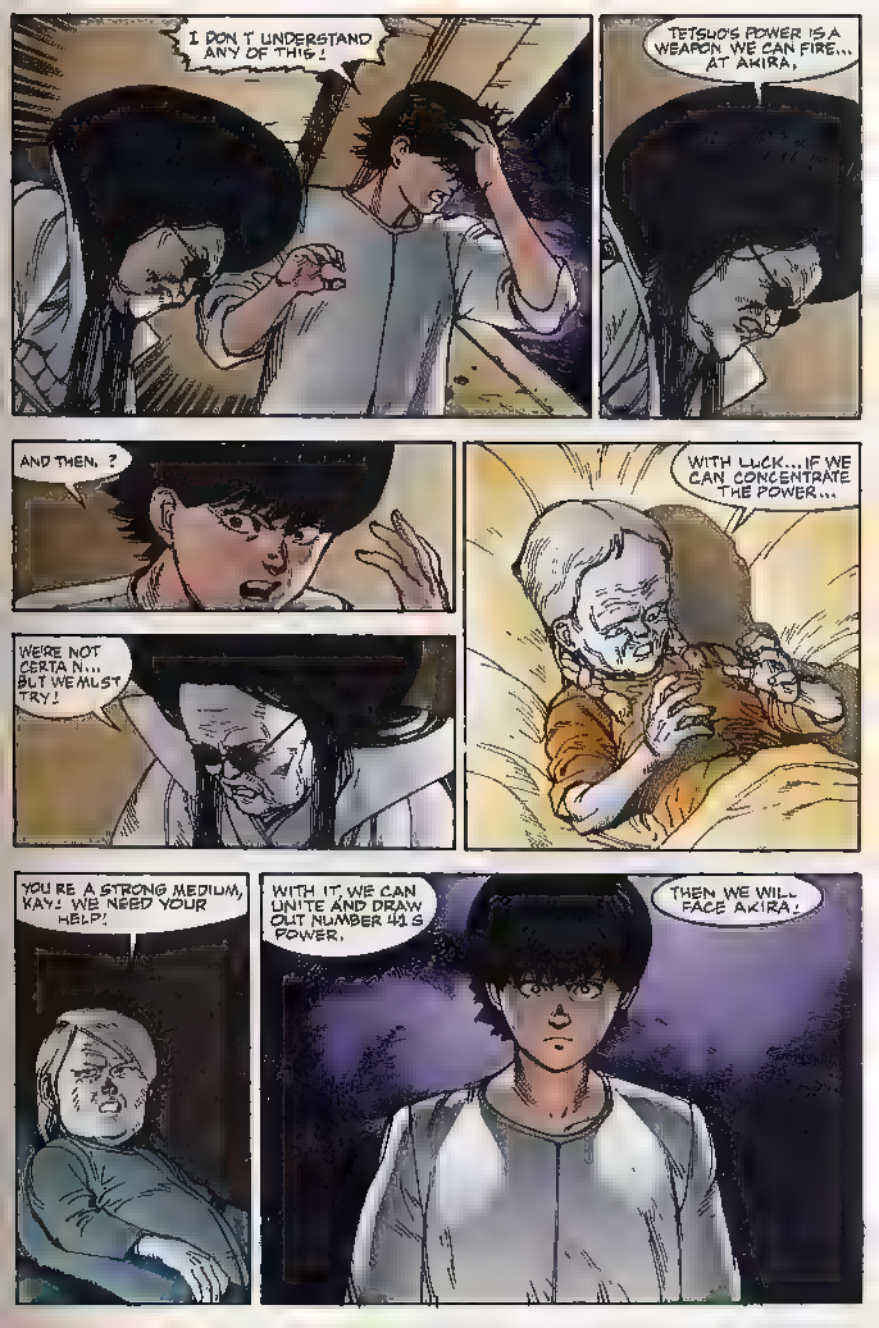
OH.

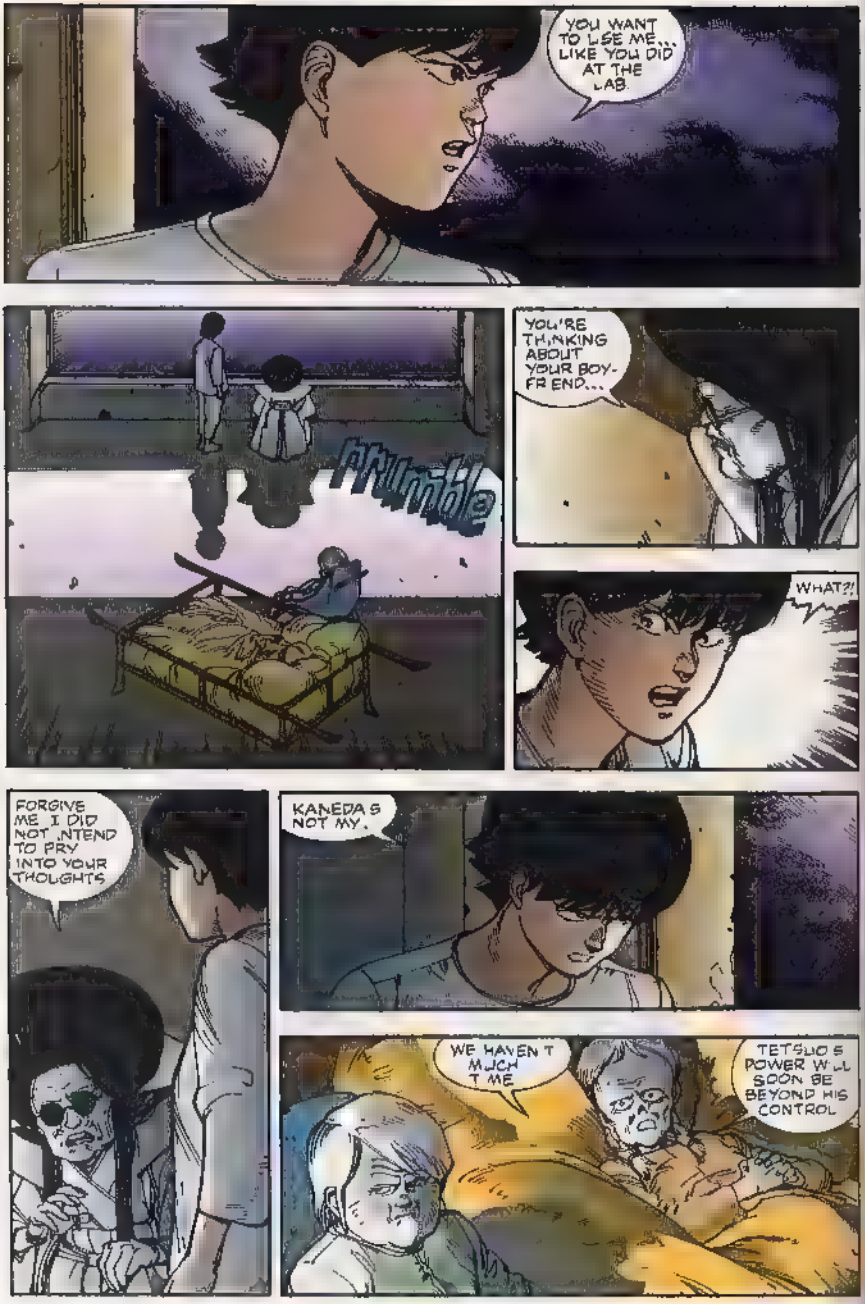

YOU TWO AS WELL!

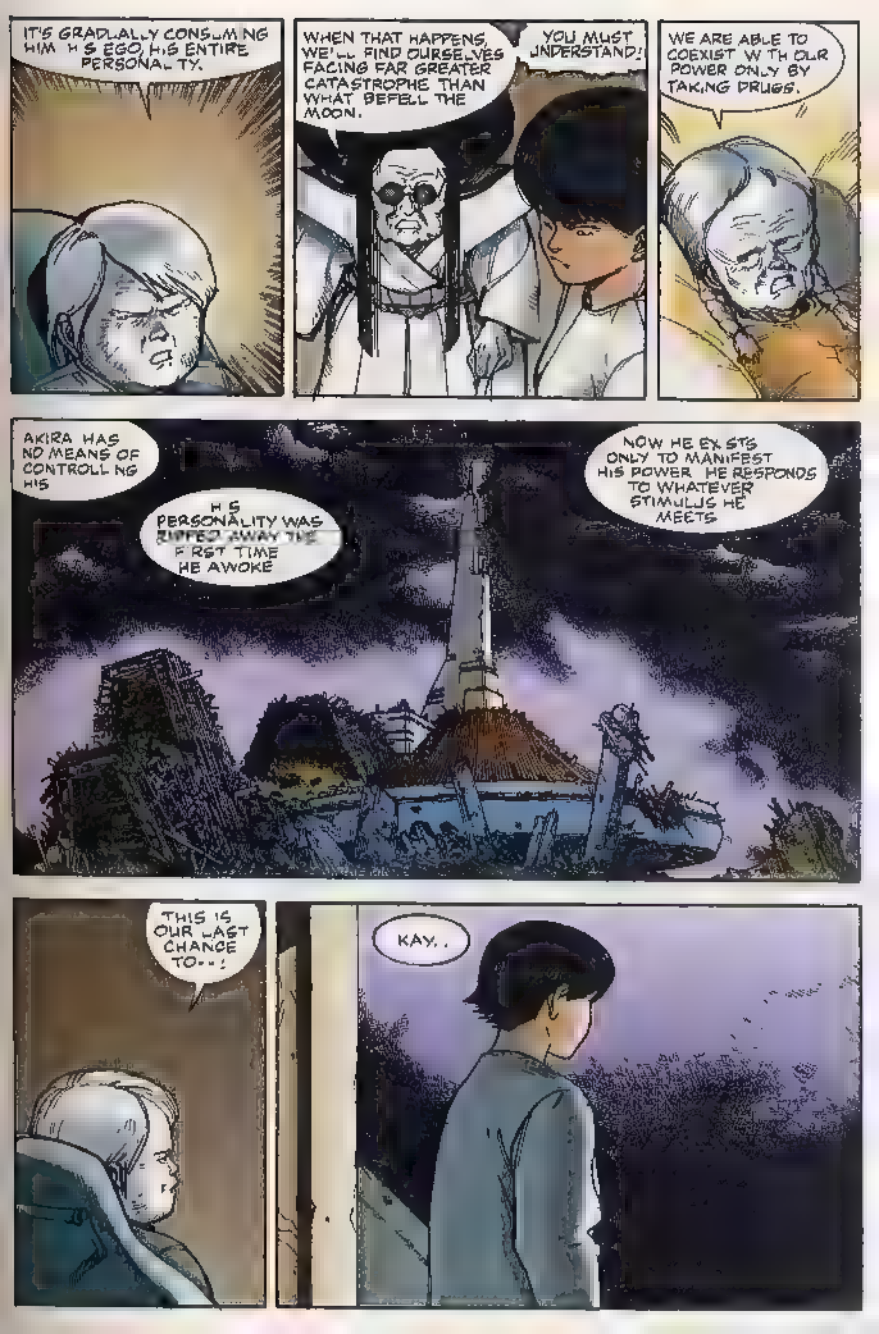

NOW THAT TETSUO HAS CONQUERED HIS ADDICTIONS, HIS POWER IS ON AKIRA'S LEVEL... BUT IT DOESN'T CONTROL HIS CONSCIOUS MIND YET

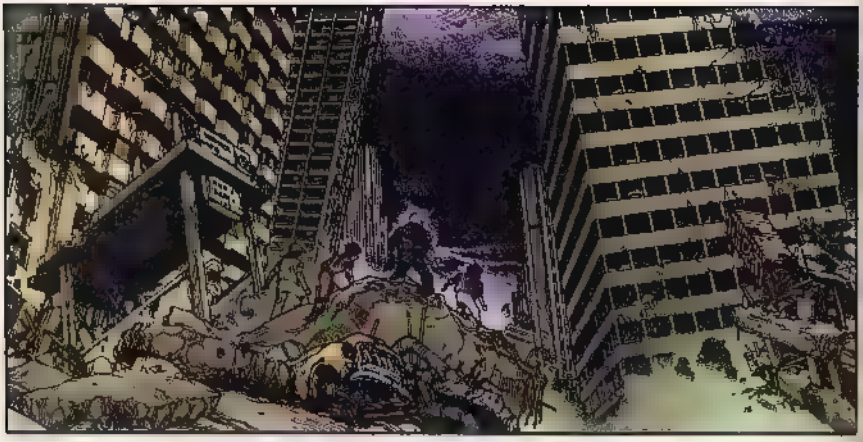
POWER
..LIKE AKIRA'S?

THAT POWER SHALL BE LAID TO REST, WITH AKIRA.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS!
TETSUO'S POWER IS A WEAPON WE CAN FIRE... AT AKIRA,
AND THEN, ?
WE'RE NOT CERTAIN... BUT WE MUST TRY!
WITH LUCK... IF WE CAN CONCENTRATE THE POWER...
YOU'RE A STRONG MEDIUM, KAY! WE NEED YOUR HELP!
WITH IT, WE CAN UNITE AND DRAW OUT NUMBER 41'S POWER.
THEN WE WILL FACE AKIRA!


YOU WANT TO USE ME... LIKE YOU DID AT THE LAB.
RRumble
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND...
WHAT?!
FORGIVE ME. I DID NOT INTEND TO PRY INTO YOUR THOUGHTS
KANEDA'S NOT MY.
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME
TETSUO'S POWER WILL SOON BE BEYOND HIS CONTROL


IT'S GRADUALLY CONSUMING HIM. HIS EGO, HIS ENTIRE PERSONALITY.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL FIND OURSELVES FACING FAR GREATER CATASTROPHE THAN WHAT BEFELL THE MOON.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND!
WE ARE ABLE TO COEXIST WITH OUR POWER ONLY BY TAKING DRUGS.
AKIRA HAS NO MEANS OF CONTROLLING HIS
HIS PERSONALITY WAS RIPPED AWAY THE FIRST TIME HE AWOKE
NOW HE EXISTS ONLY TO MANIFEST HIS POWER. HE RESPONDS TO WHATEVER STIMULUS HE MEETS
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO--!
KAY..



WHATEVER HAPPENED UP HERE WAS SOMETHING B.G.
SOME SPOTS ARE SUBMERGED!

Tap
WHERE YA GOIN KANEDA?

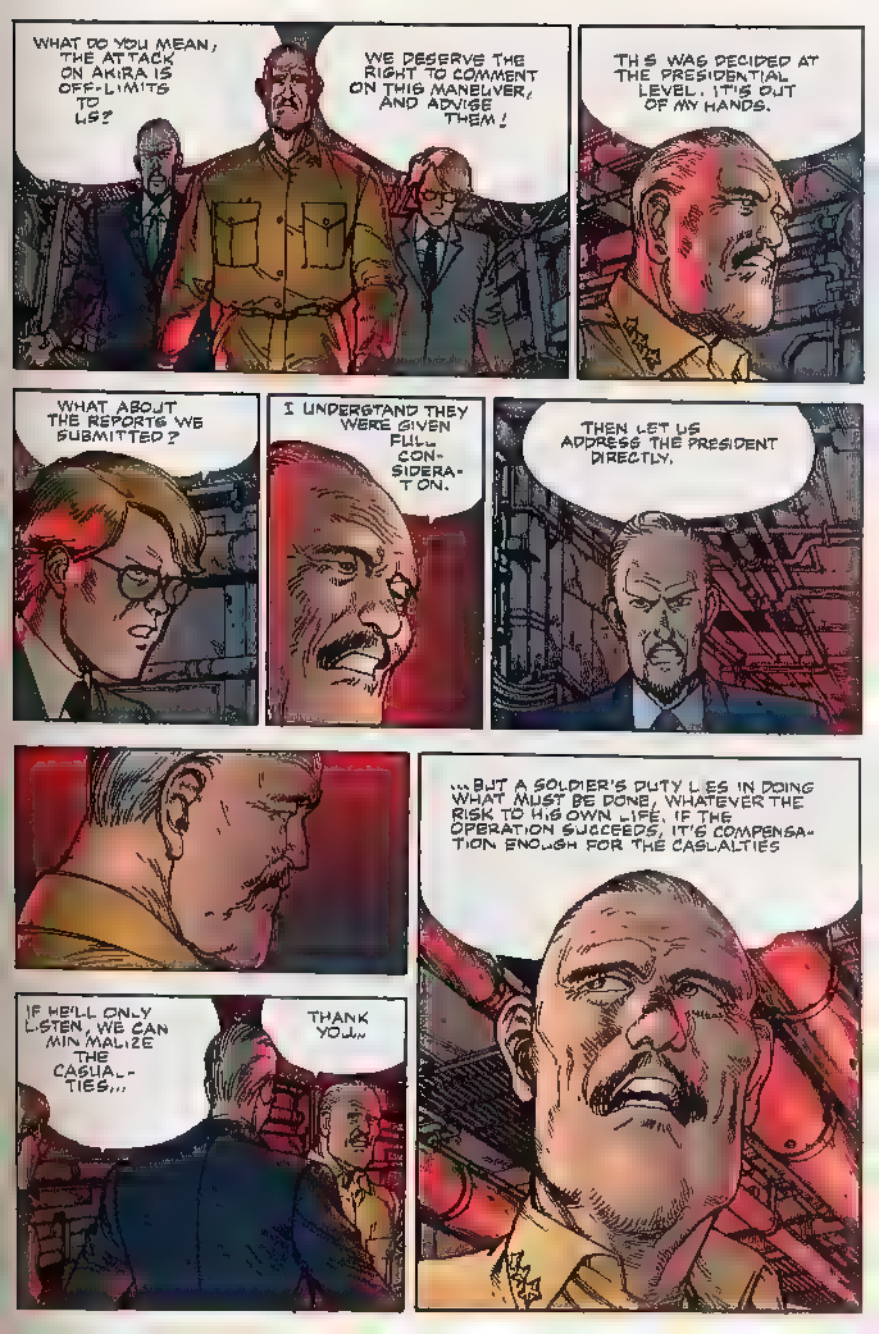
CRIPES! IS THAT STARTING UP AGAIN?!

SPLASH

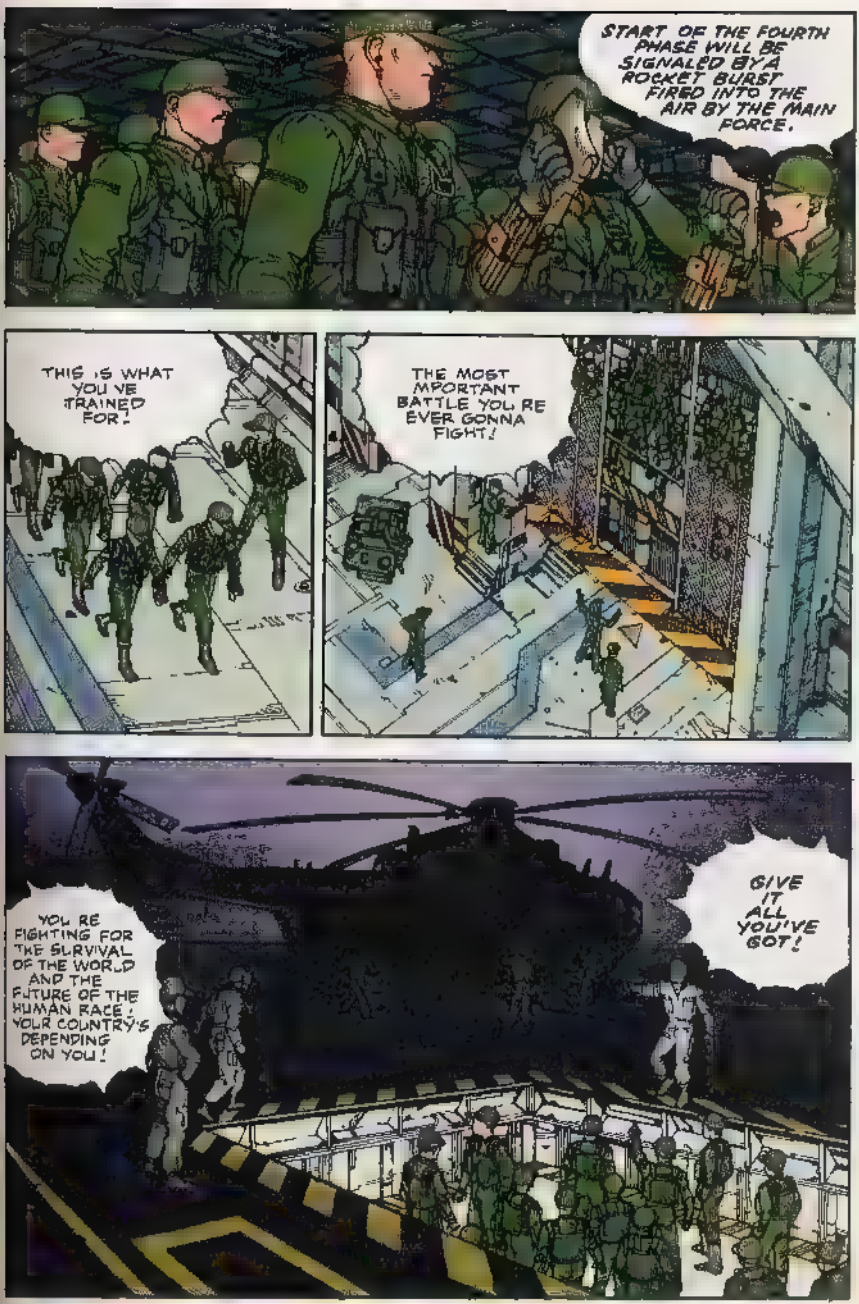
THIS WASN'T ANY NORMAL STORM!
THAT OL BAG MIYAKO CAN PROBABLY EXPLAIN IT

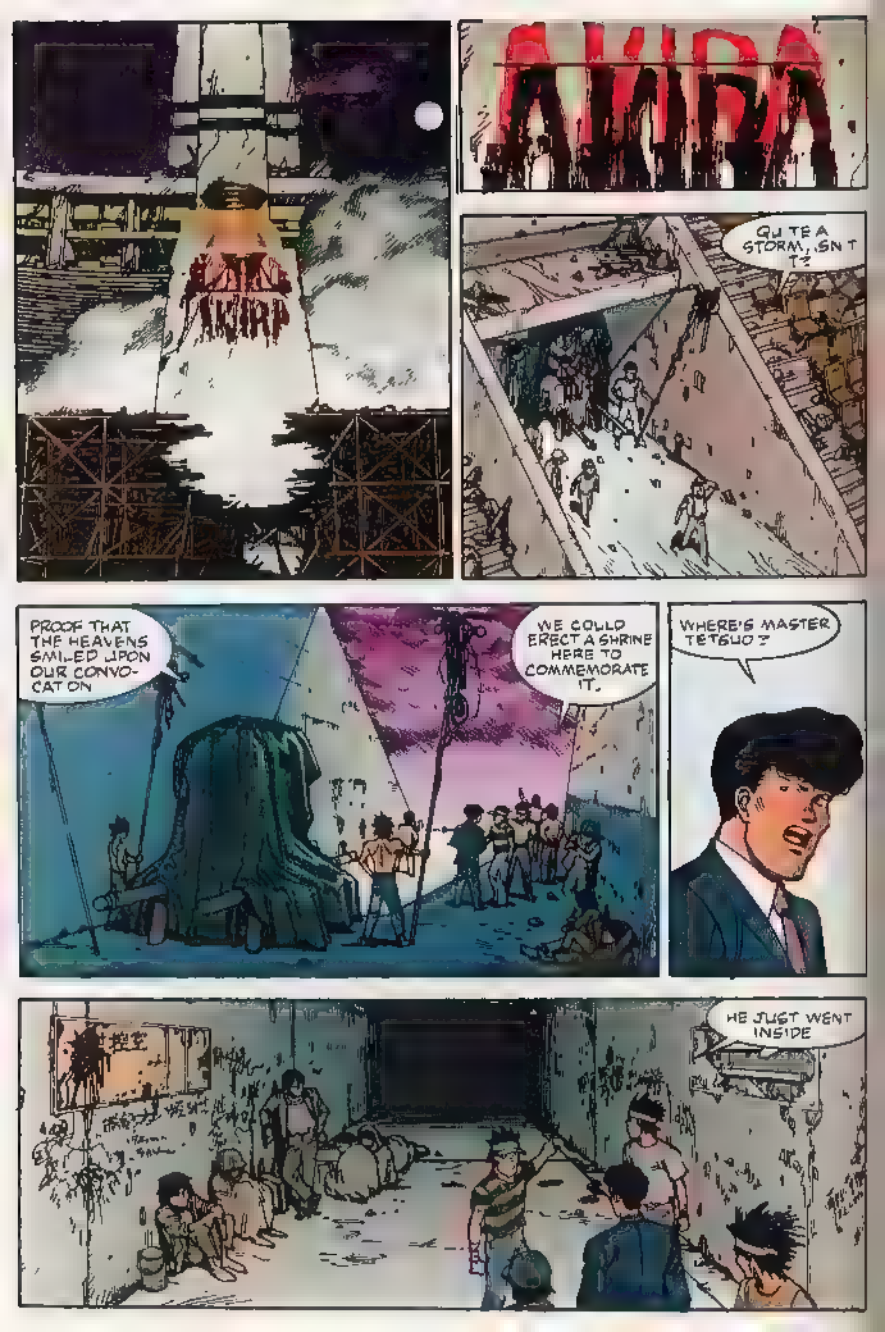
C'MERE.
WHAT FOR?!
WE HAVE TO GO BACK FOR THE BIKES
KANEDA...

GONGONGONG
AOOGA
AOOGA
ATTENTION SPECIAL FORCES!
REPORT TO THE OPERATIONS ROOM
DRESSED FOR LEVEL FIVE COMBAT.
REPEAT, SPECIAL
FORCES PERSONNEL ...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE ATTACK ON AKIRA IS OFF-LIMITS TO US?
WE DESERVE THE RIGHT TO COMMENT ON THIS MANEUVER, AND ADVISE THEM!
THIS WAS DECIDED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS.
WHAT ABOUT THE REPORTS WE SUBMITTED?
I UNDERSTAND THEY WERE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION.
THEN LET US ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY.
...BUT A SOLDIER'S DUTY LIES IN DOING WHAT MUST BE DONE, WHATEVER THE RISK TO HIS OWN LIFE. IF THE OPERATION SUCCEEDS, IT'S COMPENSATION ENOUGH FOR THE CASUALTIES
IF HE'LL ONLY LISTEN, WE CAN MINIMALIZE THE CASUALTIES...
THANK YOU...

HERE IS WHERE WE'LL BE DROPPED.
INFORMATION REGARDING TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA IS SKETCHY, SO WE'LL BE JUMPING INTO THE SEA.
THIS IS A PICTURE.
...OF LIEUTENANT GEORGE YAMADA, LEADER OF THE RECON TEAM
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RENDEZ-VOUS WITH HIM AFTER LANDING THEN, WHEN HE GIVES THE WORD...
...WE'LL PROCEED TO PHASE THREE, IN THE EVENT THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT...
...OR IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO KEEP THE LIEUTENANT UNDER SURVEILLANCE USE YOUR OWN JUDGMENT ON WHEN TO COMMENCE PHASE THREE


START OF THE FOURTH PHASE WILL BE SIGNALED BY A ROCKET BURST FIRED INTO THE AIR BY THE MAIN FORCE.
THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE TRAINED FOR!
THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE YOU'RE EVER GONNA FIGHT!
YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE! YOUR COUNTRY'S DEPENDING ON YOU!
GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!

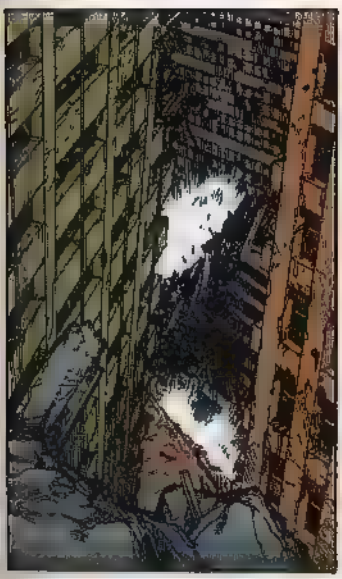

AKIRA
AKIRA
AKIRA
QUITE A STORM, ISN'T IT?
PROOF THAT THE HEAVENS SMILED UPON OUR CONVOCATION
WE COULD ERECT A SHRINE HERE TO COMMEMORATE IT.
WHERE'S MASTER TETSUO?
HE JUST WENT INSIDE

SHF SKFF
AA...AAH..
GO SEE WHAT'S WRONG
RIGHT
MASTER TETSUO?
!

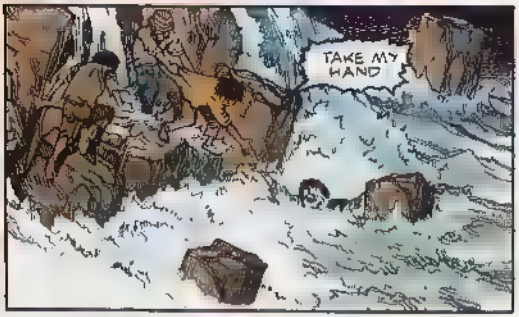
WHAT'S WRONG? COULDN'T YOU FIND HIM?
HEY!
.....
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST! HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!
...UH... UH...
MASTER TETSUO!

HUNH?
WHAT'RE YOU MUMBLING, FOOL?
IT'S HIM... HIS H-HAND... IT'S... IT'S...
S ANYTHING WRONG, SIR?
N...
...NO, NOTHING'S WRONG... NOTHING AT ALL...

AOOOOOOO
HEY!
THERE'S A HOLE IN THE MOON!



AND THE SEAS COME UP SO FAR!


TAKE MY HAND

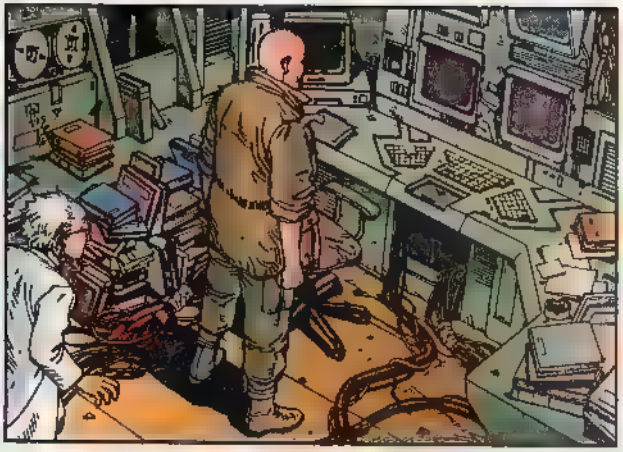
AA'EE!
SOOOSH

IT'S YOUR DONG, ISN'T IT?

TET-SUO!

AAOOOOOOOOO
AOOO
.....
COLONEL!
COLONEL! WHERE ARE YOU?
OVER HERE WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING DREADFUL.

KLIK
BIP
BIP
BIP
KLIK

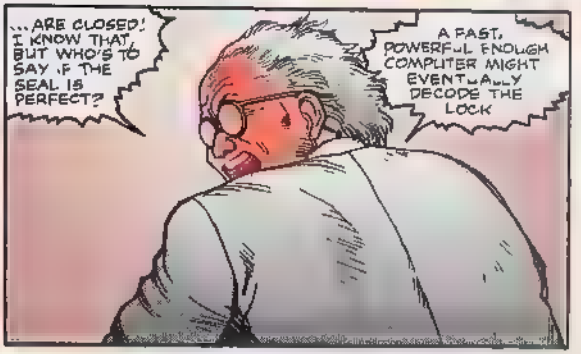


WHAT DOES I MEAN ?

THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE CONTROL OF SOL.

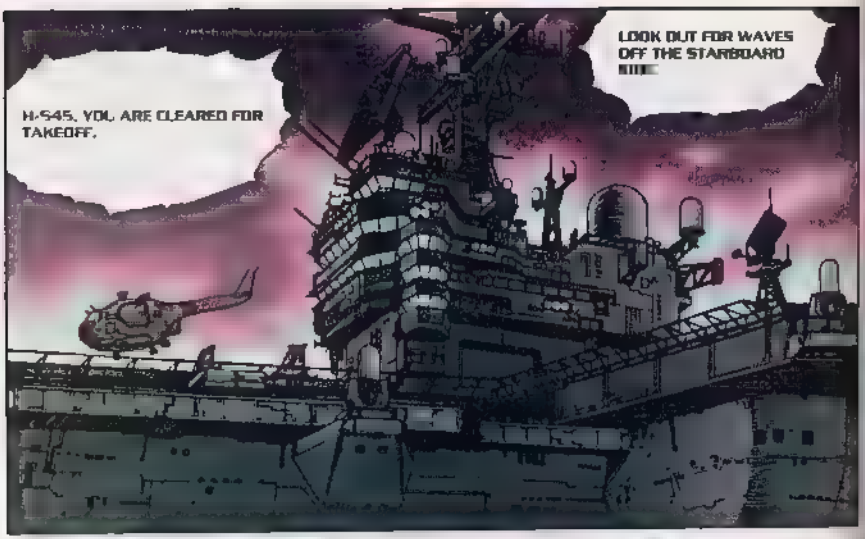
"THEY"...?
THE AMERICANS, PERHAPS THE SOVIETS... OR CHINA...
PERHAPS ALL OF THEM!

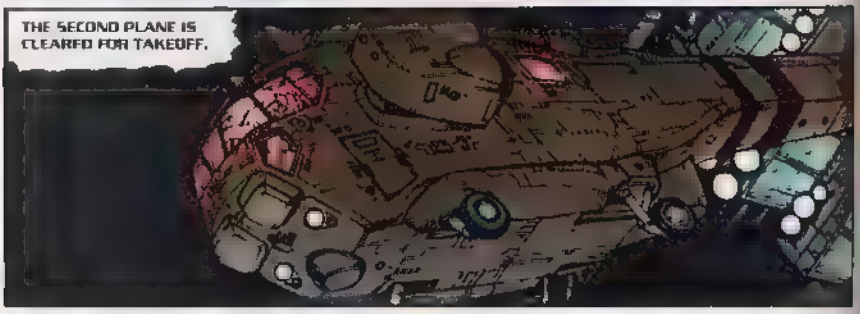
BUT SOL'S ENTRY CIRCUITS...

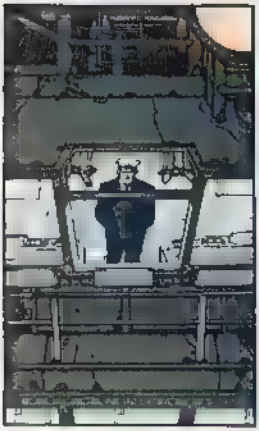

...ARE CLOSED! I KNOW THAT, BUT WHO'S TO SAY IF THE SEAL IS PERFECT?
A FAST, POWERFUL ENOUGH COMPUTER MIGHT EVENTUALLY DECODE THE LOCK

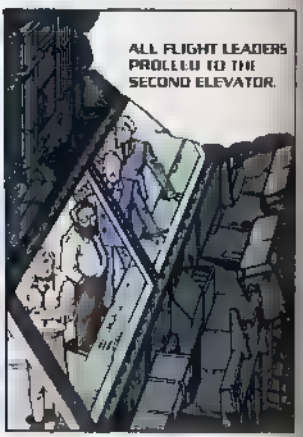
START NOW AND REARRANGE THE ENCODING
I'LL TRY, BUT THE FIRST LAYER OF THE DEFENSES HAS ALREADY BEEN BREACHED
WE CAN STAY AHEAD OF THEM... BUT WORKING BY TRIAL AND ERROR, THEY'LL CATCH UP SOON
HOW SOON?
A WEEK... THREE DAYS... MAYBE IT'S JUST A MATTER OF HOURS.
DAMN!
I THINK IF I GIVE IT MY ALL I CAN BUY US THREE DAYS.
EXCELLENT!

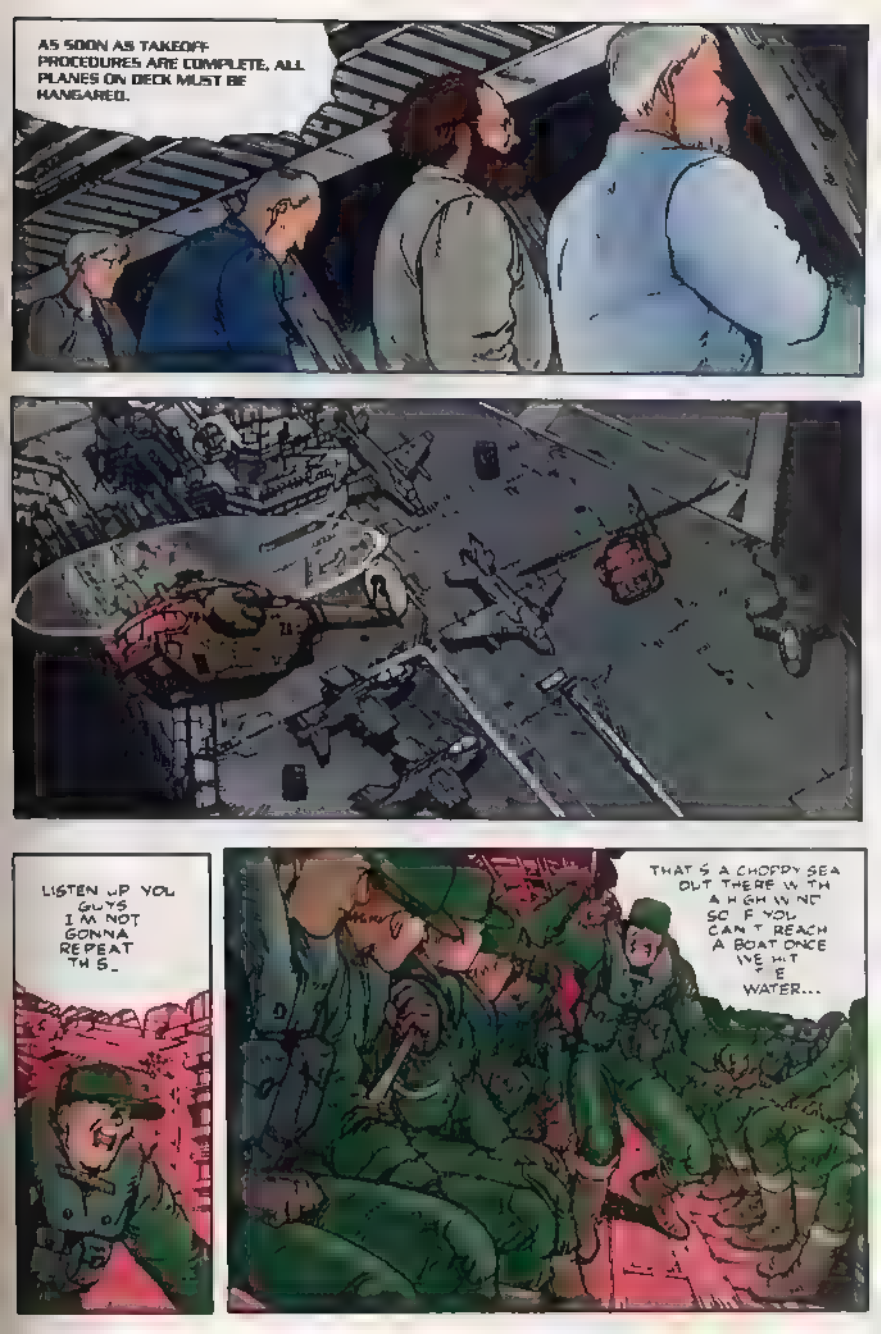
DON'T FAIL ME!
I WON'T...
...I HOPE
THREE DAYS!
I'VE TAKEN TOO LONG AS IT IS!

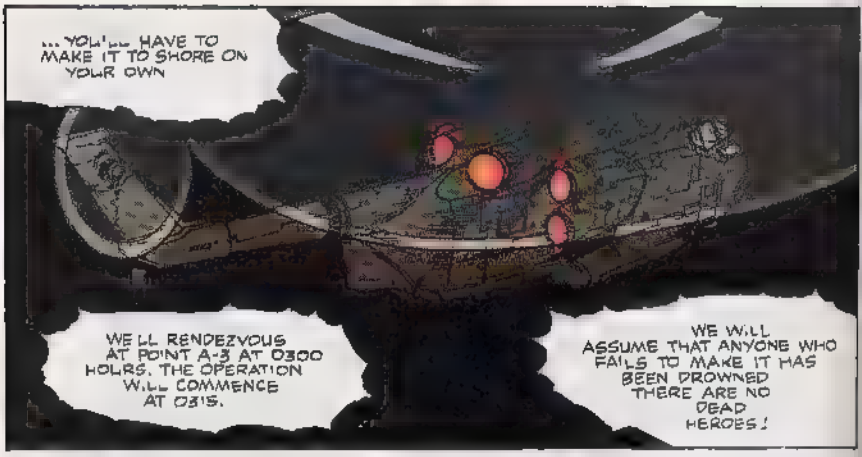

H-545, YOU ARE CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.
LOOK OUT FOR WAVES OFF THE STARBOARD


THE SECOND PLANE IS CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.

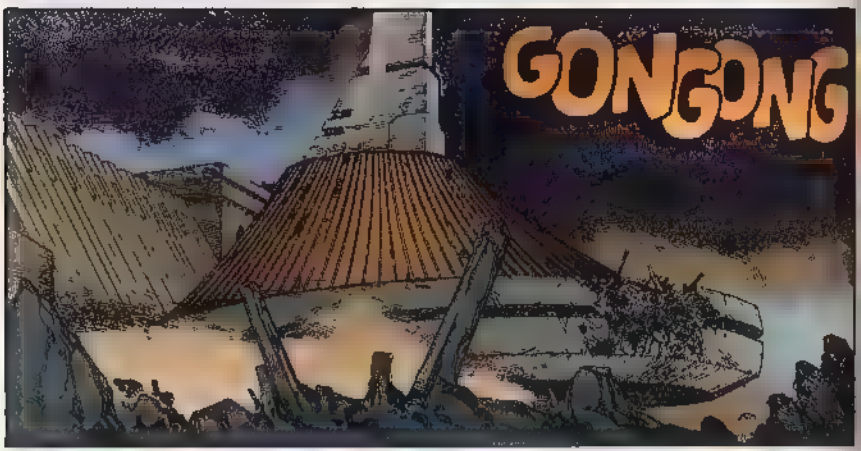



ALL FLIGHT LEADERS PROCEED TO THE SECOND ELEVATOR.

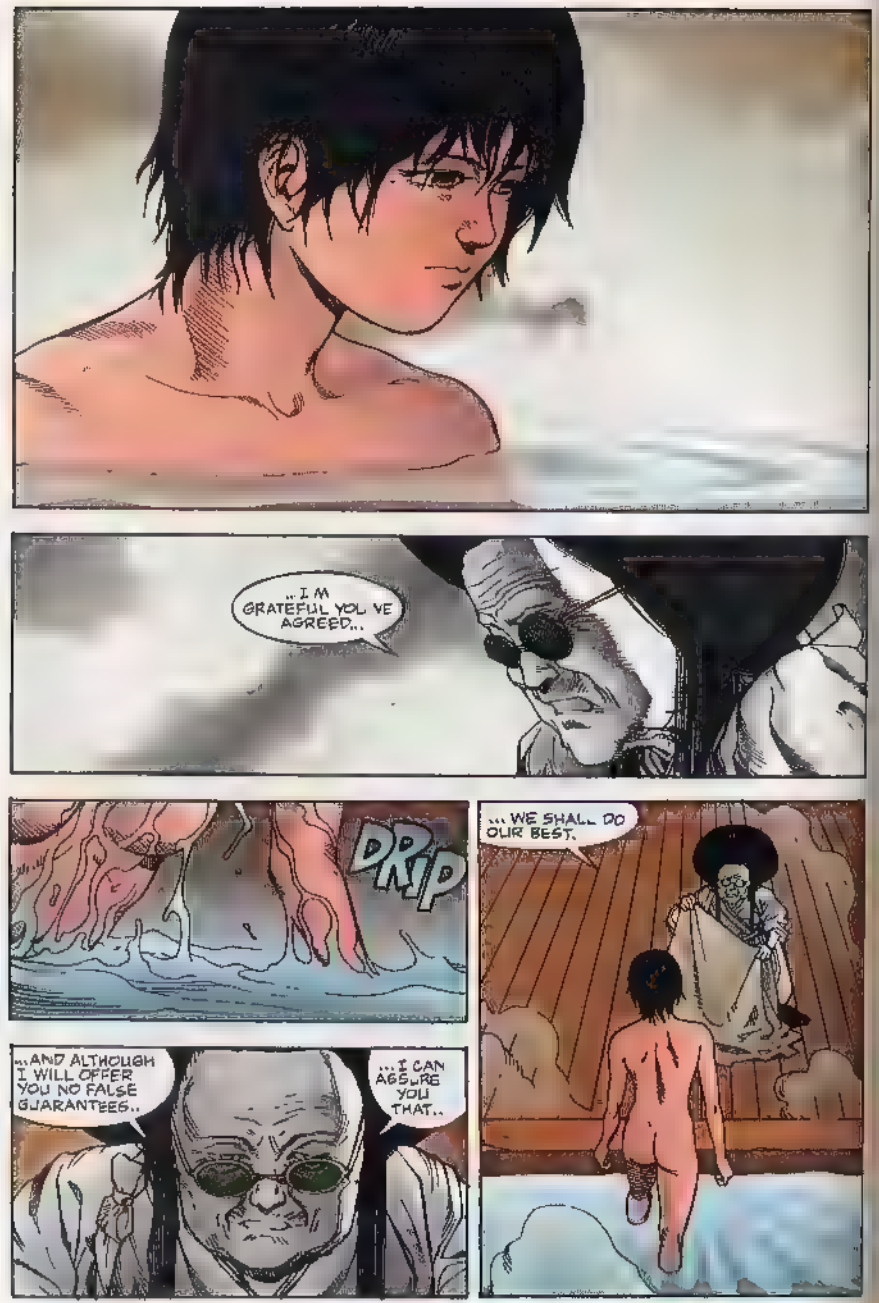

AS SOON AS TAKEOFF PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETE, ALL PLANES ON DECK MUST BE HANGARED.
LISTEN UP YOU GUYS I'M NOT GONNA REPEAT THIS.
THAT'S A CHOPPY SEA OUT THERE WITH A HIGH WIND SO IF YOU CAN'T REACH A BOAT ONCE YOU'VE HIT THE WATER...

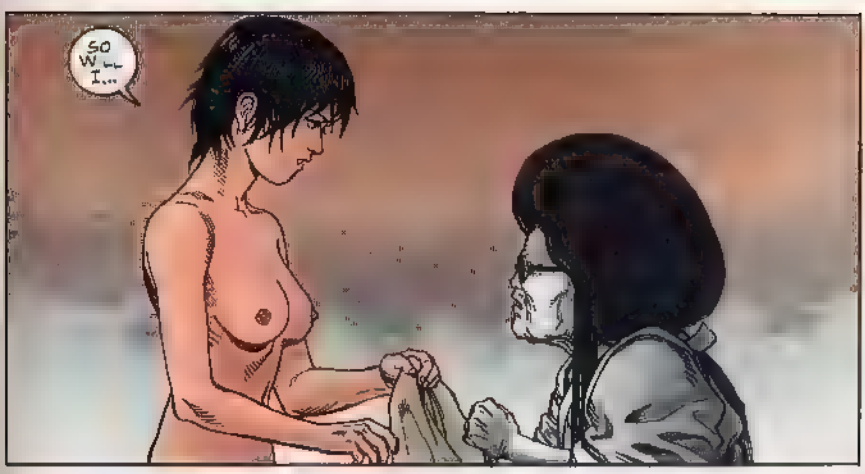

...YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT TO SHORE ON YOUR OWN
WE'LL RENDEZVOUS AT POINT A-3 AT 0300 HOURS. THE OPERATION WILL COMMENCE AT 0315.
WE WILL ASSUME THAT ANYONE WHO FAILS TO MAKE IT HAS BEEN DROWNED THERE ARE NO DEAD HEROES!

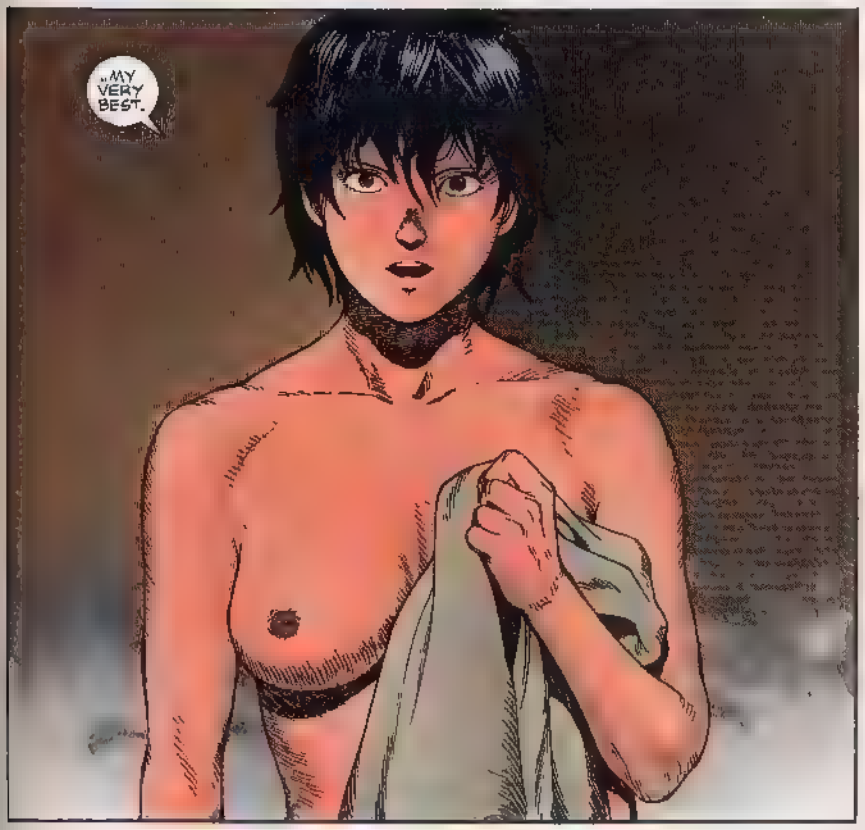
UNDERSTAND?
AYE-AYE, SIR!


GONGONG

KAAAAY? OH KAY.
HEY, YOU GUYS.
WHERE'S MIYAKO? I GOTTA TALK TO HER
OUR LADY IS WITH KAY, PRESIDING OVER THE RITUAL OF PURIFICATION
WHO SAYS KAY NEEDS TO BE PURIFIED?!
WA--
--WAIT!
KAY! WHERE ARE YOU?

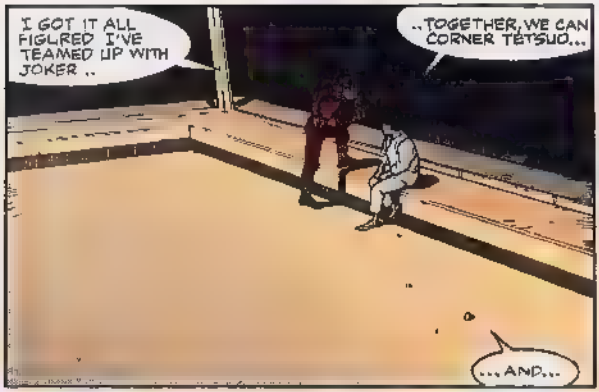

...I'M GRATEFUL YOU'VE AGREED...
DRIP
...AND ALTHOUGH I WILL OFFER YOU NO FALSE GUARANTEES..
...I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT..
...WE SHALL DO OUR BEST.

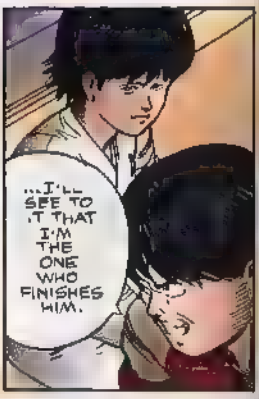

SO WELL I...


...MY VERY BEST.

THE PURIFICATION IS ONLY A FORMALITY
IT'S A SYMBOL T DEMONSTRATES HER DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE AND FOCUS ON OUR TASK
I THINK SHE NEEDS THAT.
I D DN T EXPECT YOU TO BE HERE YET
LOOK
AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL IS WELL W TH KAY, NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE NEXT STEP S TO MAKE A PLACE - !
KAY!

STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU--?
SHUT UP!
KANEDA!
THE STORM OUT THERE... TETSUO MUST'VE...
THAT'S ENOUGH! RELEASE HIM!
YOU HEARD HER, SCUMBAG! HANDS OFF!
KANEDA...
I'M RIGHT ABOUT TETSUO, AREN'T I, MIYAKO? HE CAUSED THE STORM!

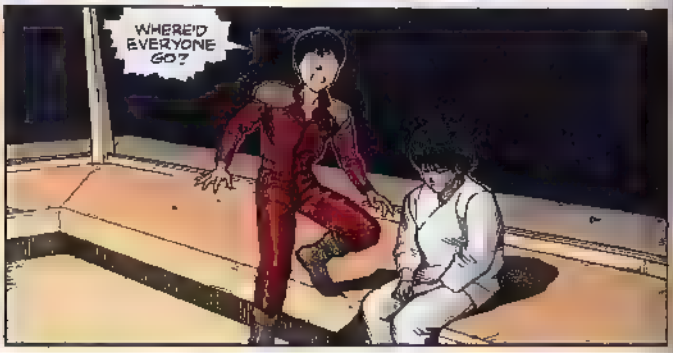

I GOT IT ALL FIGURED I'VE TEAMED UP WITH JOKER ..
..TOGETHER, WE CAN CORNER TETSUO...
...AND...


...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT I'M THE ONE WHO FINISHES HIM.

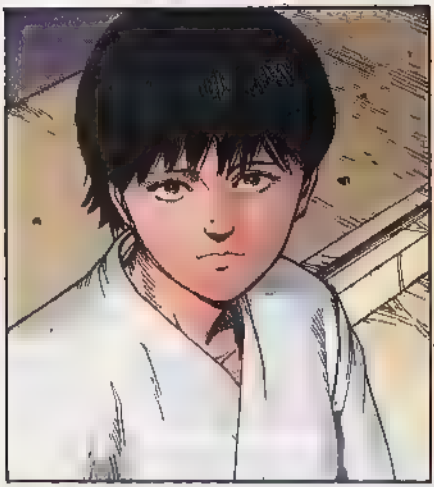
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE ALONE TOGETHER?

WE MAY RELY ON KAY'S STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

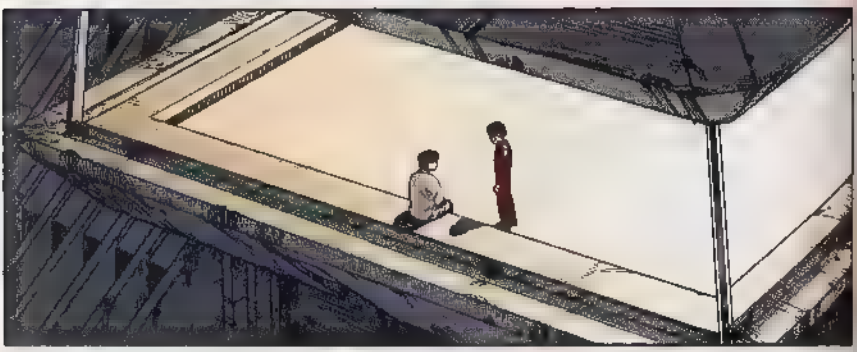
WHAT IN--?!

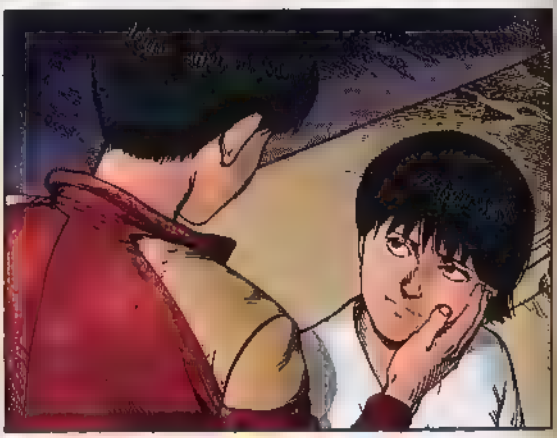

WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?

PLEASE..
...STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.
HUNH?
BUT YOU... BUT I... ISN'T THIS KIND OF SUDDEN?..
IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH
...EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
AH... AH, GEE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO..
REALLY?!
MMM



WHA...?





WHOA!
HOLD IT!
EH...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
.....
SOMETHING'S WRONG!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU!
I CAN TELL.
THAT BITCH MIYAKO...
.HER AN HER FUCKING PURIFICATION.

WHAT'S SHE WANT WITH YOU ANYWAY?!
KAY!!
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
FINE!
IF YOU DON'T WANNA TELL ME, I'LL ASK HER!
WAIT!
I'LL TELL YOU.
I WILL

BUDDABUDDA
NOW, LEMME SEE WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
MOVE OUT!
BUDDABUDDA

GO!

A MEDIUM?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY I AM... WHY THEY NEED ME
I CAN WIELD THEIR POWER FOR THEM... ALL THREE OF THEM AT ONCE, CHANNELED THROUGH MY BODY..
"SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO FACE TETSUO
FACE... YOU MEAN FIGHT HIM?
AN' WHAT THE HELL WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?!
LOOK AT THE STORM.
TETSUO'S POWERS ARE INCREASING STEADILY.

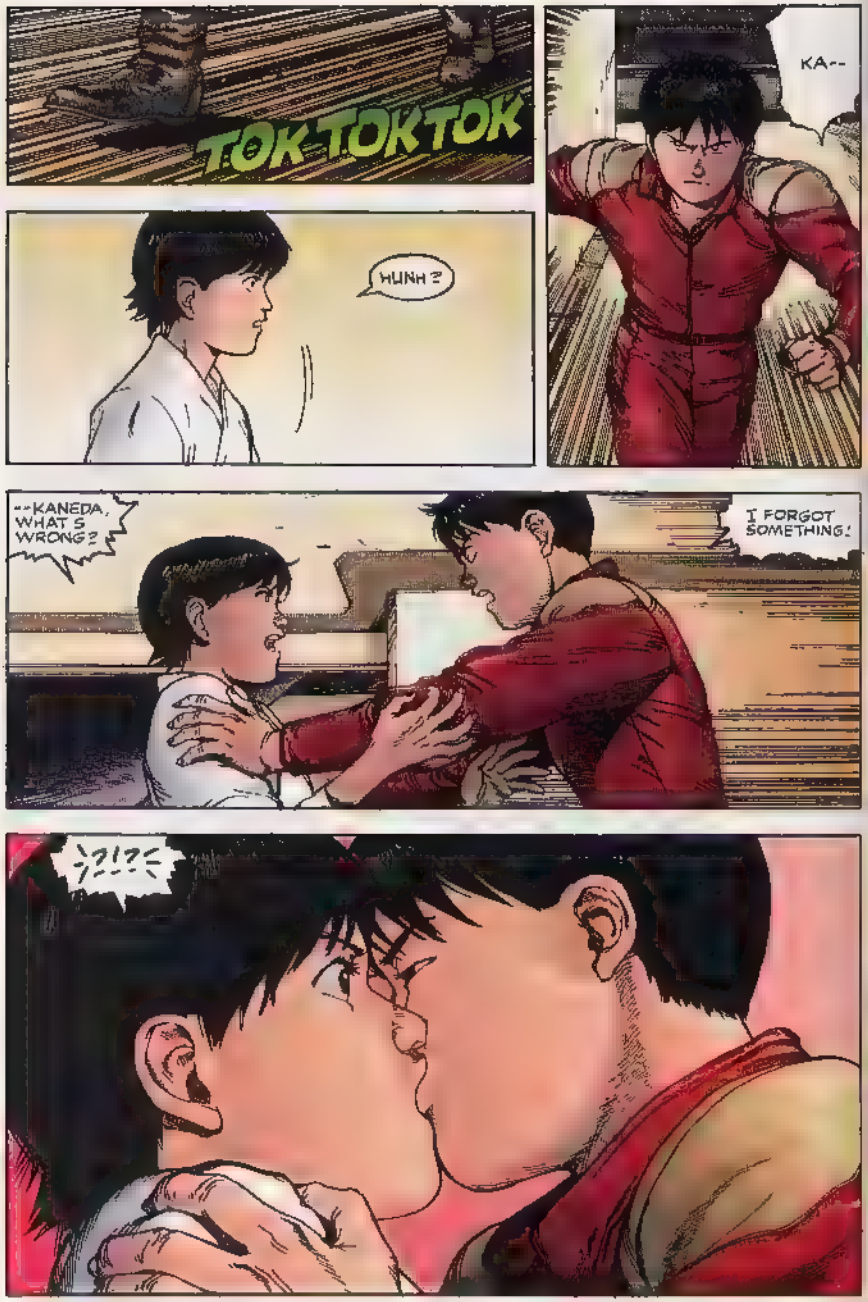
!
!!!
SOON, NOT EVEN TETSUO WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEM.
WE HAVE TO CHALLENGE HIM NOW, BEFORE HE GROWS INTO ANOTHER AKIRA

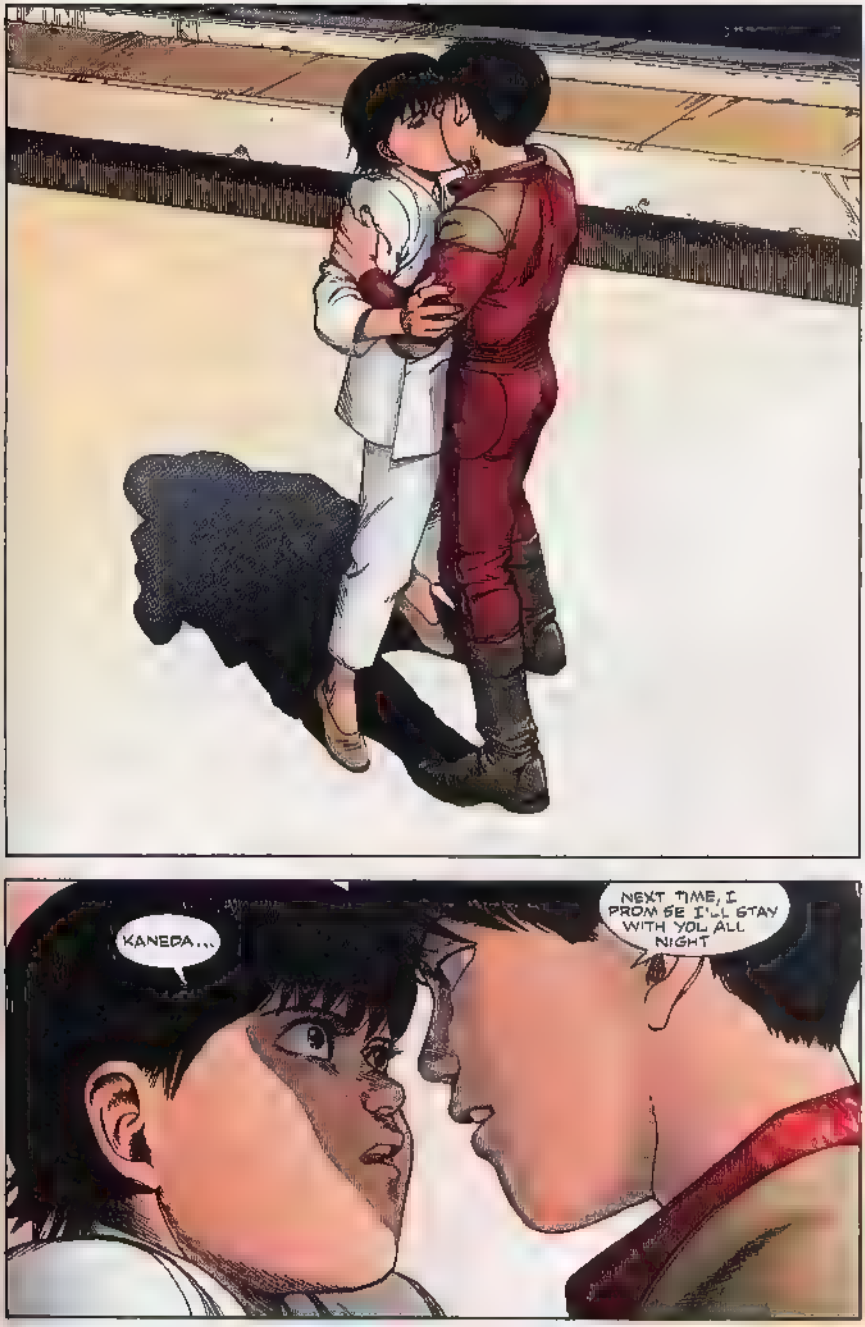
LADY MIYAKO SAID THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE
THAT BITCH!
IF THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTS, WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST DO IT HERSELF AND LEAVE YOU OUT OF IT?!
IT'S DANGEROUS, AN' YOU'LL BE THE ONE TAKIN' ALL THE RISKS!
IF I CAN BE OF HELP TO THEM,
..I WANT TO
HUNH?
I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE... FOR THE SAKE OF MY FRIENDS WHO D ED...
...AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONES I DON T WANT TO DIE.

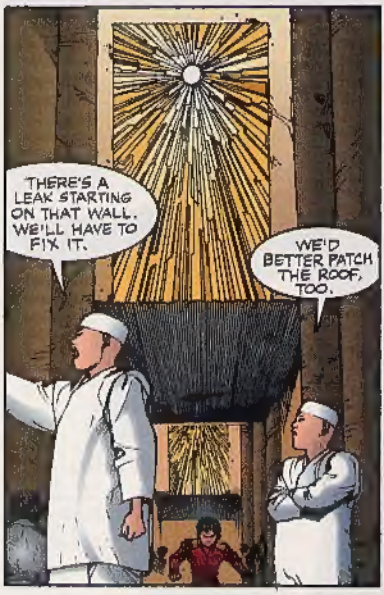
BULLSHIT
THE BITCH!
THIS IS BULLSHIT, MIYAKO!
THAT OLD BODYSNATCHER WANTS YOU FOR CANNON FODDER!
WAIT! STOP!
SHE'S MESSIN' WITH YOUR MIND, MAKIN' YOU WANT TO!
I'D ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND!
THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO BE PURIFIED!

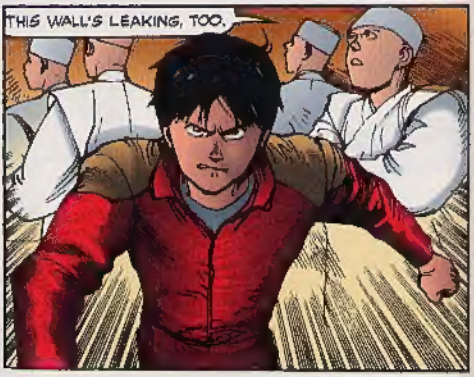
FINE.
I'LL KILL HIM MYSELF!
TETSUO'LL BE LUNCH MEAT BEFORE YOU GET ANYWHERE NEAR HIM!
KANEDA.
YOU THINK I'D JUST STAND BY WHILE YOU KILL YOURSELF?! I'LL NEVER LET YOU DIE!

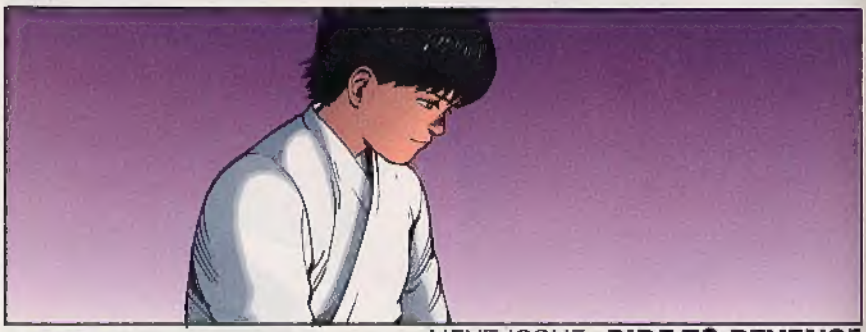
WAIT AND SEE!
YOU CAN'T! TETSUO IS FAR TOO--!
DAMN YOU...
TETSUO...


TOK TOK TOK
HUNH?
KA--
--KANEDA, WHAT'S WRONG?
I FORGOT SOMETHING!
-!?!?-

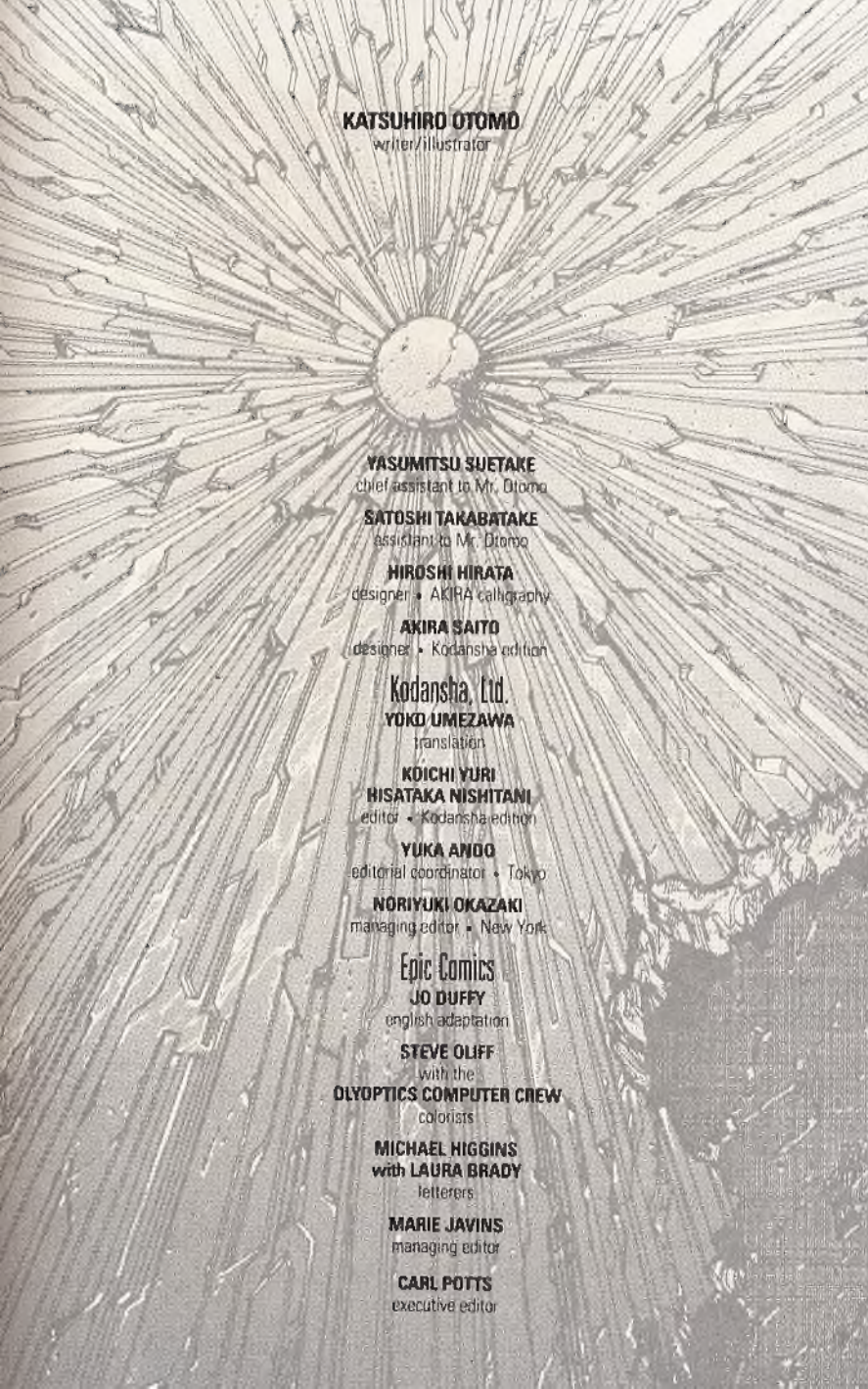

KANEDA...
NEXT TIME, I PROMISE I'LL STAY WITH YOU ALL NIGHT







NEXT ISSUE: **RIDE TO REVENGE**



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A boy called Tetsuo telekinetically punches a quarter mile hole in the moon, wreaking havoc on a cosmic scale. Joker and his motorcycle gang race their bikes to outrun a vicious tidal wave — in the city's subway tunnels. Young lovers Kay and Kaneda share a gentle first kiss before setting off for the violent overthrow of a ruthless dictator. And nameless special forces troops dive into icy waters in a desperate last ditch assault to preserve life as we know it on the planet we call Earth.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

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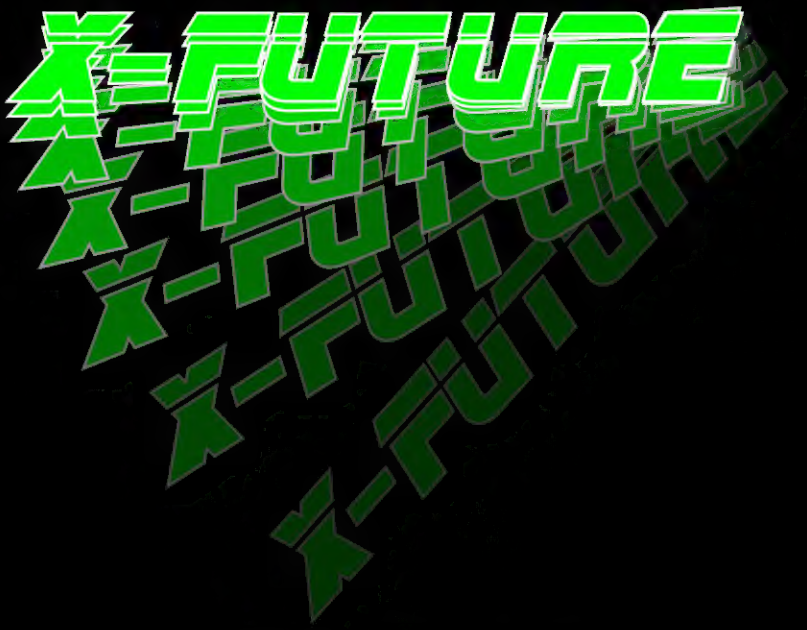

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um